



[4910-13]

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Noise Compatibility Program Notice

Lafayette Regional Airport,

Lafayette, Louisiana

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT

ACTION: Notice

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announces its findings on the noise compatibility program submitted by Lafayette Airport Commission under the provisions of 49 U.S.C. (the Aviation Safety and Noise Abatement Act, hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and 14 CFR Part 150. These findings are made in recognition of the description of Federal and nonfederal responsibilities in Senate Report No. 96-52 (1980). On April 4, 2012, the FAA determined that the noise exposure maps submitted by Lafayette Airport Commission under Part 150 were in compliance with applicable requirements. On November 23, 2015, the FAA approved the Lafayette Regional Airport noise compatibility program. Both of the recommendations of the program were approved.

DATES: The effective date of the FAA's approval of the Lafayette Regional Airport noise compatibility program is November 23, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: DOT/FAA Southwest Region, Tim Tandy, Environmental Protection Specialist, ASW-640D, 10101 Hillwood Parkway, Fort Worth, Texas 76177. Telephone (817) 222-5644.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice announces that the FAA has given its overall approval to the noise compatibility program for Lafayette Regional Airport, effective November 23, 2015.

Under section 47504 of the Act, an airport operator who has previously submitted a noise exposure map may submit to the FAA a noise compatibility program which sets forth the measures taken or proposed by the airport operator for the reduction of existing non-compatible land uses and prevention of additional non-compatible land uses within the area covered by the noise exposure maps. The Act requires such programs to be developed in consultation with interested and affected parties including local communities, government

agencies, airport users, and FAA personnel.

Each airport noise compatibility program developed in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) Part 150 is a local program, not a Federal program. The FAA does not substitute its judgment for that of the airport proprietor with respect to which measures should be recommended for action. The FAA's approval or disapproval of FAR Part 150 program recommendations is measured according to the standards expressed in Part 150 and the Act and is limited to the following determinations:

- a. The noise compatibility program was developed in accordance with the provisions and procedures of FAR Part 150;
- b. Program measures are reasonably consistent with achieving the goals of reducing existing non-compatible land uses around the airport and preventing the introduction of additional non-compatible land uses;
- c. Program measures would not create an undue burden on interstate or foreign commerce, unjustly discriminate against

types or classes of aeronautical uses, violate the terms of airport grant agreements, or intrude into areas preempted by the Federal Government; and

d. Program measures relating to the use of flight procedures can be implemented within the period covered by the program without derogating safety, adversely affecting the efficient use and management of the navigable airspace and air traffic control systems, or adversely affecting other powers and responsibilities of the Administrator prescribed by law.

Specific limitations with respect to FAA's approval of an airport noise compatibility program are delineated in FAR Part 150, section 150.5. Approval is not a determination concerning the acceptability of land uses under Federal, state, or local law. Approval does not by itself constitute an FAA implementing action. A request for Federal action or approval to implement specific noise compatibility measures may be required, and an FAA decision on the request may require an environmental assessment of the proposed action. Approval does not constitute a commitment by the FAA to financially assist in the implementation of the program nor a determination that all measures covered by the program are eligible for grant-in-aid funding from the FAA. Where federal

funding is sought, requests for project grants must be submitted to the FAA Regional Office in Fort Worth, Texas.

The Lafayette Airport Commission submitted to the FAA on November 29, 2011 the noise exposure maps, descriptions, and other documentation produced during the noise compatibility planning study conducted from August 14, 2013 through August 6, 2014. The Lafayette Regional Airport noise exposure maps were determined by FAA to be in compliance with applicable requirements on April 4, 2012. Notice of this determination was published in the Federal Register on April 13, 2012.

The Lafayette Regional Airport study contains a proposed noise compatibility program comprised of actions designed for phased implementation by airport management and adjacent jurisdictions from August 6, 2014 to the year 2017. It was requested that the FAA evaluate and approve this material as a noise compatibility program as described in section 47504 of the Act. The FAA began its review of the program on May 25, 2015 and was required by a provision of the Act to approve or disapprove the program within 180 days (other than the use of new or modified flight procedures for noise control). Failure to approve or disapprove such program within the 180-day period shall be deemed to be an approval

of such program.

The submitted program contained two proposed actions for noise mitigation off the airport. The FAA completed its review and determined that the procedural and substantive requirements of the Act and FAR Part 150 have been satisfied. The overall program, therefore, was approved by the FAA effective November 23, 2015.

Outright approval was granted for both of the specific program elements. A preventive land use mitigation measure would offer owners of vacant residential parcels located within the existing DNL 65 contour the opportunity to participate in the Aviation Easement Acquisition Program. A remedial measure would offer owners of residential properties located within the DNL 65 contour the opportunity to participate in the Aviation Easement Acquisition Program.

These determinations are set forth in detail in a Record of Approval signed by the FAA Southwest Region Airports Division Manager on November 23, 2015. The Record of Approval, as well as other evaluation materials and the documents comprising the submittal, are available for review at the FAA office listed above and at the administrative offices of the

Lafayette Airport Commission. The Record of Approval also  
will be available on-line at  
<http://www.faa.gov/arp/environmental/14cfr150/index14.cfm>.

Issued in Fort Worth, Texas, February 4, 2016

Ignacio Flores

Manager, Airports Division

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